



Problem Solving Courts Committee

August 15, 2008
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
30 South Meridian Street
8th floor Conference Center, Room 803

Minutes

I. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 10:22 a.m. Members present included Judge Christ-Garcia, Judge Surbeck, Judge Brugnaux, Judge Blau, Judge Trockman, Judge Salinas, Don Travis, and Paul Southwick. Others present included IJC staff members Mary Kay Hudson, Diane Mains and Jamie Bergacs.

II. Review minutes of last meeting – February 29, 2008

Members reviewed and approved minutes from the last meeting held February 29, 2008.

III. 2009 legislative issues

- Drug court funding

Mary Kay Hudson reported that while still in the beginning phases IJC is interested in moving forward with state funding for drug courts in 2009. As a result, the PSCC will be asked for recommendations on the amount of funding to request, allowable expenses, manner in which funds will be distributed, and if requested funds will be for drug courts only or other problem solving courts.

Due to the various questions and points that arose from the discussion surrounding this topic, it was suggested by Judge Blau that the PSCC work with an outside facilitator during this process. Mary Kay Hudson to speak with Jane Seigel regarding the possibility of planning a retreat for the PSCC and other stakeholders.

- Drug court eligibility

Diane Mains reported that the policy subcommittee is currently exploring amending the drug court statute to expand eligibility to include forensic diversion and community correction participants. This amendment is being considered due to concerns raised by courts during site visits that the current statutes exclude these individuals from drug court participation.

Approved 10.24.2008

- **Mental health courts**
IJC staff reported that Steve McCaffrey of Mental Health America, Indiana Chapter, contacted IJC to discuss the possibility of partnering on the development of mental health court legislation for the 2009 session. IJC staff advised members that the issue of mental health court legislation has been placed on the agenda for the Commission on Mental Health's agenda for the meeting scheduled for September 4, 2008.
- **Problem-solving courts legislation**
Diane Mains reported that IJC staff have had discussions with Jane Seigel regarding proposing problem-solving courts legislation. IJC staff are proposing such legislation due to the increasing interest in various problem-solving court models, such as mental health courts. Ms. Mains reported that IJC would provide draft language for the committee's review.

Committee members also discussed other legislative issues to be address in the future such as the issue of having cases expunged.

IV. Education subcommittee

- **2008 PSC Workshop – October 1-3, 2008, Hilton Indianapolis**
Mary Kay Hudson reviewed the most recent draft agenda for the 2008 PSC Workshop. Mary Kay Hudson reported that she will contact Dr. George Parker of FSSA to conduct the session on mental health.

Committee Members offered the following suggestions:

Judge Christ-Garcia stated that she could recommend a community court graduate to take part on the graduate / participant panel. Judge Blau also stated she knows of a graduate that speaks in Southern Indiana that she could invite to take part on the panel as well.

Judge Trockman stated that he has a copy of the poem that was read in the opening session of this year's NADCP Conference. The committee would like for this poem to at least be included in the workshop binder, if not read at the workshop.

- **2009 skills training – motivational interviewing**
Committee members were advised that IJC will begin sponsoring 2-3 day skill-building workshops each spring. The first skill- building training will take place in the spring of 2009. Stephanie Troyer and Nicki Venable from Allen County Community Corrections will present on the topic of motivational interviewing.

V. Policy subcommittee

- Draft transfer rule
Diane Mains provided committee members with a draft intrastate program transfer rule. Members suggested that the intrastate program transfer application form mirror that which is currently used by probation.

Committee members were asked to further review the draft rule, looking specifically at fees and eligibility, and provide feedback at the next committee meeting.

- Practice guidelines
Diane Mains reported that practice guidelines have been placed on the PSC website to address routine questions and areas of interest to problem-solving courts. Currently there are practice guidelines for local rules, record keeping, and drug courts and 501(c)(3) corporations. Committee members were provided with the most recent practice guidelines regarding credit time.

VI. Reentry court rules workgroup update

It was reported that the reentry court rules workgroup met prior to this meeting to review the 6th draft of the Reentry Court Rules. Committee members were provided with a copy of the draft rules.

A public comment hearing on the rules is scheduled for October 24, 2008.

VII. Drug court performance measures task force update

The drug court performance measures task force is scheduled to meet again following this meeting.

VIII. JTAC case management system – supervision package update

IJC staff reported that Justice Sullivan recently announced that JTAC has recently contracted with Tyler Technologies to develop a supervision component for the Odyssey case management system. The supervision component will include probation, drug court, reentry court and court alcohol and drug programs. Don Travis reported that Justice Sullivan made a formal announcement at the POPAI board meeting held earlier that week. Mary Kay Hudson reported that JTAC may be contacting some of the drug courts and reentry courts to learn more about the court's operations and management information system needs. Mary Kay Hudson reported that she provided JTAC with a list of the drug court performance measures currently under consideration by the performance measures task force. Justice Sullivan will attend the October workshop to provide an overview of the project. Details of the project, such as when the package will be available to courts, have not been announced.

Some members expressed concerns regarding conversion issues as well as expense associated with conversion.

IX. Other Business

Per Judge Surbeck's request, Mary Kay Hudson forwarded an e-mail on August 13, 2008 concerning the Center for Court Innovation's (CCI) request for assistance in developing model goals for statewide coordination of problem-solving courts. Judge Surbeck asked that members send any comments regarding the CCI e-mail to him.

Mary Kay Hudson advised that there will be vacancies on the committee beginning at the end of the year. The Chief Justice will be making appointments to fill those vacancies, which will be announced in the coming weeks.

X. Schedule next meeting date

Committee members scheduled the next committee meeting for October 24, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. This meeting will follow the Reentry Court Rules public comment hearing.

XI. Adjourn

Judge Surbeck adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.